

DONKEY SERENADE

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Editor - Lou Bartlett



Welcome Titan!

Christmas came early for Highfield Garden Reserve this year as proud mum Truffle gave birth without complications to her third healthy foal in the early hours of Tuesday December 5th.

Mum and baby are being kept together, along with Tilly II, away from the rest of the herd in a nearby holding paddock, where visitors can go and visit. The community had their chance to contribute names via social media after the foal was born. A total of 20 names were suggested and after much deliberation (and a couple of false starts), 'Titan' was chosen by the Donkey Groomers. The definition of Titan is to be of enormous size, strength, power, and influence. So, our Titan has big hooves to grow into!



Congratulations to Truffle & Ted on the birth of their precious boy, Titan!

Highfield Donkey Santa Fun Day

A day of family fun was had by all at the Annual Highfield Donkey Santa Fun Day last Saturday. The Community came out in force to support this popular local event run by a dedicated group of volunteers and supported by Auckland Council. It was a perfect summers day with blue skies and very warm conditions. Previous events had been cancelled due to bad weather, waterlogged grounds and Covid. The last event of this kind was held back in December 2020.

The day kicked off with a Donkey parade, with 6 of the donkeys walked into the reserve, decorated in tinsel. Tim Holdgate, Rodney Local Board, and supporter of Highfield Garden Reserve opened the day with a welcome speech. Following this, a health & safety briefing was given, and the crowd were shown how to feed a donkey correctly and safely. Shortly after, Santa arrived in a vintage Ford Model A, driven by owner, Jack Algie. Santa took his place on the stage in front of the shed and children lined up to tell him about their wishes for Christmas.

In true tradition, Donkey Day played host to some good old-fashioned games for the kids (and adults) including the Egg and Spoon Race, Sack Race and Tug of War. The prestigious Roberts Challenge Race was this year won by Snells Beach local, Haarlem Caine, and was presented the trophy by Jenny van der Mespel, granddaughter of Ted and Alison Roberts.

Cont. on Page 3.

"Unlike a horse which symbolise peace and is a sign of war, a donkey symbolises peace and meekness. Jesus chose to ride a donkey to fulfill a prophecy: Behold your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey."

Dr Noemi Oliver, Encounter Church.

We had a great turnout on a beautiful Summer's day.



Tim Holdgate opened the event.



Demonstrating how to feed a donkey.



Jack Algie in his Ford Model A.



Santa made an appearance.



Sisters Charlotte and Tilly Simons with Santa.

Other activities included the ever-popular Donkey Rides, Pin the Tail on the Donkey and Lolly Scramble. The BBQ provided free sausage sizzles. The membership table was selling Christmas cards and tags as well as a new range of Highfield Donkeys branded bucket style hats, for both adults and kids in various sizes.

As expected, Truffle and her new foal Titan, who was born a few days before the event, stole the limelight with many people wanting to catch a glimpse of the new addition.

Tim Holdgate said of the event, "It was a fantastic turnout with families coming as far as greater Auckland for the day".

Special mentions go to Auckland Council for supplying the BBQ and food; Hire Works Snells Beach for the free Portaloo; New World Warkworth gifted a voucher, enabling organisers to purchase prizes and lollies; and to all the volunteers involved in the preparation and delivery of the event.



Tug of War between kids and Mums.



Sack races for the kids - and adults!



Lining up for free sausage sizzles.



The Roberts Challenge Race was won by Haarlem Caine. He was presented the trophy by Jenny van der Mespel.



Charlotte Simons pins a tail on the donkey.



Mike Anstett was in charge of the BBQ.



Jenny van der Mespel and Marion Jones at the Membership table.



Plenty of pats and carrots.



Buckets hats for sale. Limited stock still available. Adults \$30, Kids \$20. Contact us via Facebook to enquire.

Christmas Celebrations

The volunteers of Highfield Garden Reserve came together with some dinner and drinks at Jane Kelsey's home to celebrate the year that was.



A special cake made in honour of Titan (left) and beautiful pot luck dinner.



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